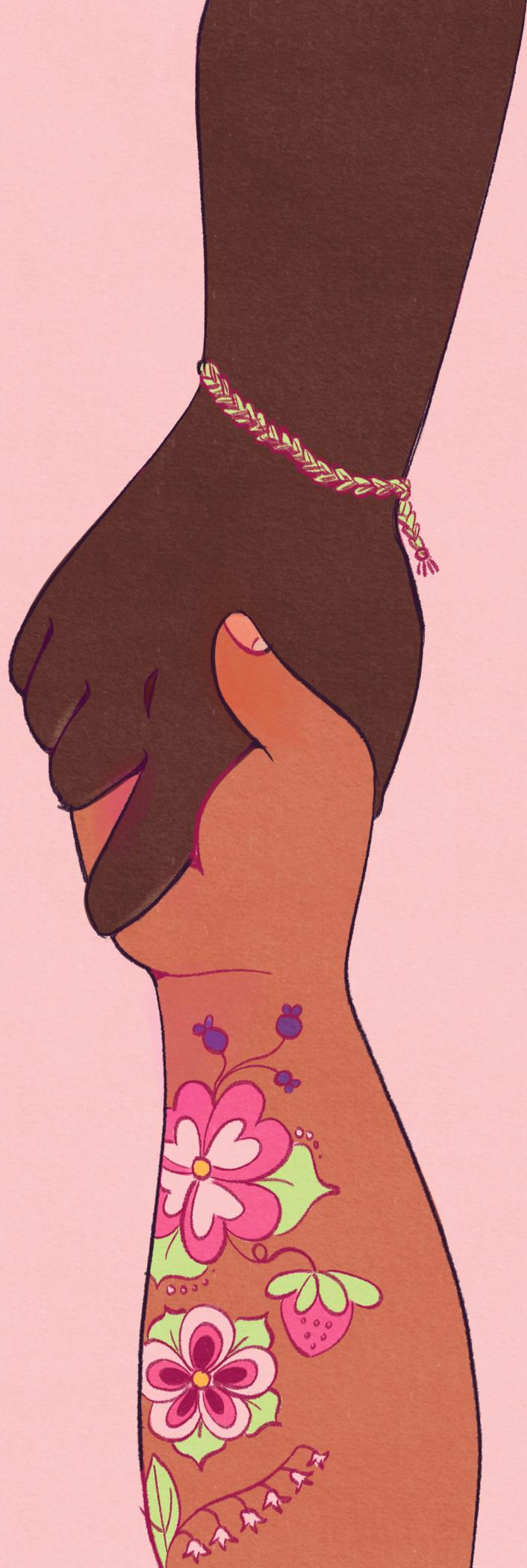


**Nehiyawak
Intellectual
Traditions *for*
Co-Production *and*
Community-Based
Research**

Paulina Johnson



The Auntie is in

The Auntie Is In podcast is not your typical podcast – it is a living intellectual tradition based in Nehiyawak (Four-Spirit) tradition and culture. Rooted in Narrative Methodology and layered in storytelling and lived experience, the podcast (re)stories the historical and current realities of Nehiyawak and other Indigenous peoples, while highlighting resonances and dissonances between Indigenous and Western pedagogies.

The podcast started as a way of creating a space to confront realities Indigenous Peoples experience and face, especially through the lived experience of Dr. Paulina Johnson in dialogue with Indigenous knowledge and distinguished Indigenous scholars. But it became a method in itself by facilitating the resurgence of Indigenous creation stories, traditions, ceremonies, and songs in a way that remains critical of the everyday struggles of Indigenous peoples. The hope is that we, as a community, envision Indigenous futures while engaging in our personal decolonization battles.

The Auntie Is In podcast uses community-based research and kinship relationship building as methodologies to navigate cross-culture communications, highlight oral narratives, value Indigenous knowledge and ways of living, and reflect on how researchers connect with the truth. By being community-based, The Auntie is In informs

a history blurred and kept hidden in the national narrative, impeding the processes of truth and reconciliation, excluding the voices of Indigenous peoples, and maintaining unsolved pressing and urgent problems for Indigenous communities. Our approach is based on mutual respect and mentorship, and it constantly evolves into more participatory and inclusive approaches towards articulating truth, reconciliation and social justice (Small 2005).

Dr. Johnson leads a group of undergraduate and graduate students, with whom she shares her experiences and community traditions. Podcast episodes are developed and refined through collective brainstorming and discussions interspersed with laughter, storytelling, eating, gift-giving, and group outings. In this way, every person involved in the podcast understands the importance of ceremony for their research and lives.

Co-production is a commitment to dismantle the rigid and isolated environment in academia, and promote the importance of working as a collective for a community. As a method, the podcast offers strong ties to Community-Based and Indigenous Research for its potential to reach broader audiences and for the collaborative, dialogical and shared dynamic to design, plan, collect, systematize and present the research results for each episode. In more technical terms, Kinkaid, Emard and Senanayake (2020) describe the result of this process as the “polyvocal product” of podcasts (p. 78).

The information produced through this podcast is not the property of any individual but rather a gift of the relationships that hold together our research team and the Lands with which we work. Sharing this information is a way of honouring the sacredness of this gift. Such sharing is offered



particularly as a form of support for and solidarity with BIPOC-led anticolonial and anti-racist work within/against colonial institutions like the academy. We intend to create and renew communities of practice that support each other through this work as a form of ceremony.

The second season of the podcast is currently under development. Methodological updates will continue to be shared as we navigate how we learn from each other and braid knowledges that have existed since time immemorial into the present society we have today. The Auntie is in and here to stay.

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Sources:

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